

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 7 and replaces the original sheet including Fig. 7. In Fig. 7, element 50 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
 Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

Currently, claims 17-31, including independent claims 17 and 29, are pending in the present application. Independent claim 17, for example, is directed to a personal care product comprising a liquid impervious baffle, a liquid pervious liner, an absorbent core positioned between the baffle and the liner, and an odor sorbent substrate. The substrate is coated with a durable activated carbon ink that consists essentially of activated carbon particles and a binder.

In the Office Action, previous independent claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,306,487 to Karapasha, et al. Karapasha, et al. is directed to a cohesive mixture formed from an absorbent gelling material (e.g., acrylate, starch-acrylate, cellulosic, or saccharidic materials), a water-soluble or water-dispersible binder material, and a water-insoluble odor-controlling agent. The odor-controlling agent may be intermediate SiO₂/AlO₂ zeolites, high SiO₂/AlO₂ zeolites, activated carbon, and mixtures thereof. The cohesive mixture may be used to form an absorbent core of an absorbent structure.

Karapasha, et al., however, differs in several respects from independent claim 17. For example, the cohesive mixture of Karapasha, et al. contains an "absorbent gelling material", i.e., a superabsorbent material. Although other ingredients may be utilized, the "consisting essentially of" language of independent claim 17 nevertheless excludes the use of such absorbent gelling materials from the claimed activated carbon ink. In any event, when the mixture of Karapasha, et al. is used in an absorbent structure, it is generally employed as the absorbent core. To the contrary, independent claim 17 requires an odor sorbent substrate that is separate from the absorbent core.

For instance, the substrate may be a tissue wrapsheet that surrounds the absorbent core. In addition to providing the desired odor reduction, the tissue wrapsheet may also help keep any superabsorbent particles in the core from escaping onto the body or clothing. Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 17 patentably defines over Karapasha, et al.

In the Office Action, previous independent claim 12 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0098466 to Thomas. Thomas is directed to a feminine protection product disposal pouch that preferably contains an odor absorbing material (e.g., charcoal or sodium bicarbonate). The odor absorbing material may be sprayed onto the inside surfaces of the pouch walls or molded into the walls of the pouch. Contrary to present independent claim 29, however, Thomas fails to disclose a pouch that comprises a substrate coated with durable activated carbon ink, the activated carbon ink containing activated carbon particles and a binder.¹ For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 29 patentably defines over Thomas.

It is believed that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Examiner Chapman is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned, however, should any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

¹ The submission of this response is in no way an admission that Thomas is effective as prior art to the present application.

Respectfully requested,

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.



Jason W. Johnston
Registration No. 45,675

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.
P. O. Box 1449
Greenville, SC 29602-1449
Phone: (864) 271-1592
Facsimile: (864) 233-7342

Date: 10/10/05



Appl. No. 10/723,761
Amdt. dated Oct. 10, 2005
ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGE

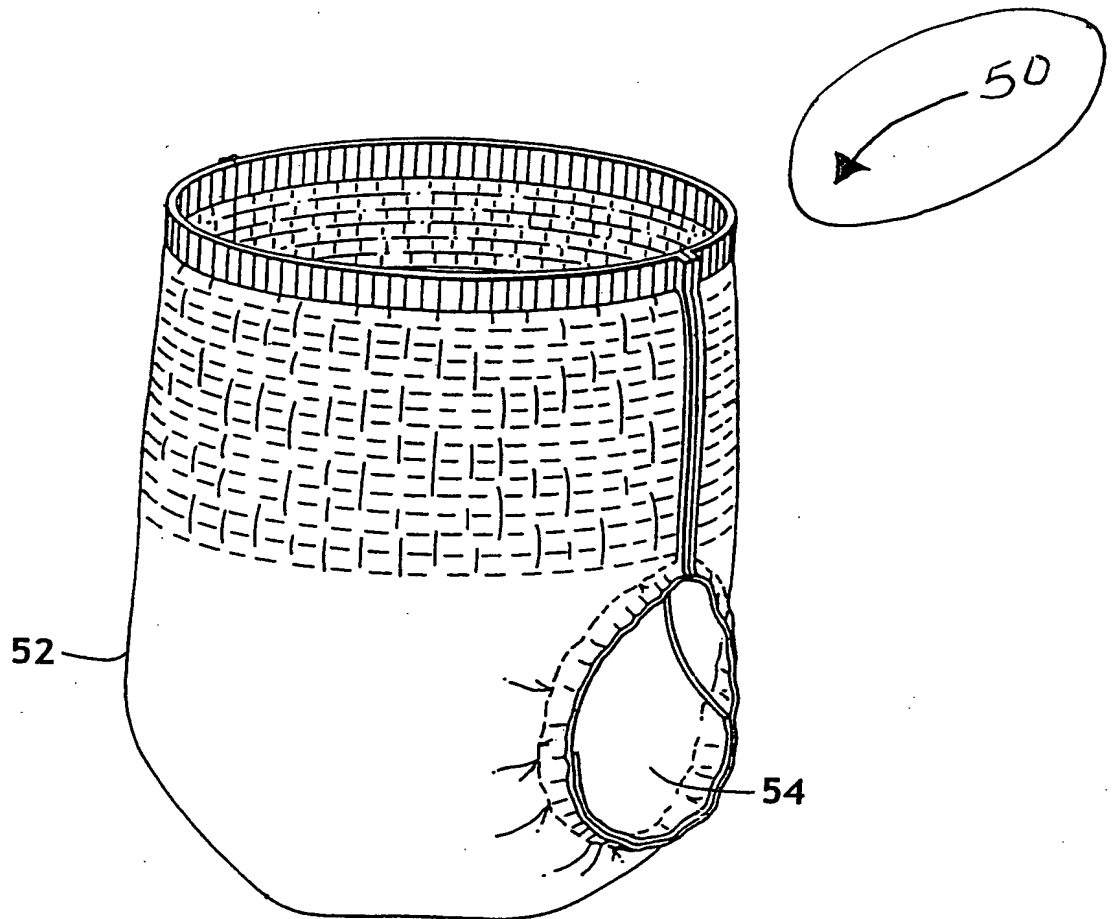


FIG. 7